

MR. WRICH: Hello. Thanks for staying late. My name is Ken Wrich. I'm here in support of Bowie Resources, Skyline Mine. I work with some of the best coal miners in the world.

I am asking that the BLM not raise the lease cost. I think they're already fair. We, we've heard here today and we know that BLM -- or the coal is the cheapest form of energy. And it will be for some time.

I am proud to deliver high BTU coal. And it's for all of us. One thing that was brought up earlier, we talked about the pollution here in Grand Junction. We did this several years ago in Denver over the coal-fired power plants. And they ended up converting those coal-fired power plants. The percentage of pollution that all those coal-fired power plants had in Denver was four percent. Like somebody mentioned that we -- the guys that drove here today, produced more pollution than all these coal-fired power plants.

That's what that -- the haze here in Grand Junction is not from coal-fired power plants. It's from dust. It's from the coal -- or the forest fires. It's from just the inversion. It's not from coal.

We used to take a lot of environmental groups -- when I worked at West Elk Coal, we used to take a lot of the environmental groups on tour. We tried to get them involved, because of lot of them have no idea what the coal mine looks like, what a [indiscernible] looks like.

And when I'd stop on the portal bench there and talk to them, they'd say, well, what effects does all this have on the wildlife? And I'd just point over to the topsoil pile. And I'd say, you can see what effect it has on the wildlife. There'd be 30 or 40 elk out there grazing right while we were mining coal. They, they adapt, just like everything else.

In closing, I'd just like to say that we aren't looking for -- I don't want to be retrained by the government. All I want is you guys do your job. And I think you'll see that we need to keep coal going, keep us working, and hopefully when you go home, the lights will be on, and you can have some hot supper. Thanks.